Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

AGR-05 STR-01 CEA-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 /111 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1789

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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ROME FOR FODAG

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SUBJECT: ARAB FUND/SUDAN AGRICULTURE PROJECT

REF: KUWAIT 4925 (NOTAL)

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1. IN REFTEL ON ARAB FUND FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

ACTIVITIES WE BRIEFLY MENTIONED THAT AFESD WAS PREPARING ANALYSIS OF SUDANESE AGRICULTURE AND THAT AFESD DIRECTOR SAEB JAROUDI HOPED TO CALL PLEDGING SESSION OF ARAB STATES SHORTLY AFTER STUDY COMPLETED. EMBOFF HAD OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS PROJECT IN GREATER DETAIL WITH JAROUDI DECEMBER 21, AND BASED ON HIS REMARKS APPEARS THAT AFESD STUDY OF SUDAN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROJECTS CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED ANYWHERE.

- 2. JAROUDI SAID HE HAS BEEN GIVEN GREEN LIGHT BY SUDAN PRESIDENT NIMEIRI TO DO COMPLETE STUDY OF SUDANESE AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL AND DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT. TASK WILL BE HUGE INVOLVING SEVERAL BILLION DOLLARS AND EFFORTS OF SEVERAL ARAB STATES AS WELL AS US AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES AND UN AGENCIES INCLUDING IBRD AND FAO. EVENTUALLY IT WILL RESULT IN DEVELOPING MILLIONS OF ADDITIONAL ACRES OF AGRICULTURALLY PRODUCTIVE LAND IN THE SUDAN THEREBY ALLOWING SIGNIFICANT ADDITION TO WORLD FOOD SUPPLIES.
- 3. ACCORDING TO JAROUDI AFESD STAFF CURRENTLY WORKING ON GENERAL STUDY. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED, PERHAPS EARLY IN 1975, BY PLEDGING SESSION AT WHICH ARAB STATES WILL AGREE TO PROVIDE FUNDING AT LEAST FOR INITIAL STUDIES. APPARENTLY AFTER THIS HAS BEEN DONE IBRD AND OTHERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO TAKE PART. JAROUDI HAS ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH WORLD BANK PRESIDENT MCNAMARA WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS EAGER TO BECOME INVOLVED. EVENTUALLY, JAROUDI WOULD LIKE TO SEE INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY ESTABLISHED WHICH WOULD BE PROTECTED FROM AND IMMUNE TO DOMESTIC SUDANESE POLITICAL PRESSURES. AUTHORITY WOULD BE STAFFED BY TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM INDUSTRIAL AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, INCLUDING US. IT WOULD OVERSEE DEVELOPMENT OF SUDANESE AGRICULTURE AND IMPLEMENT VARIOUS PROJECTS AGREED UPON.
- 4. COMMENT: WE UNABLE ASSESS SUDAN'S AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL, BUT AMONG KUWAITIS AND PARTICULARLY WITHIN DEVELOPMENT AID AND INVESTMENT COMMUNITY HERE, THERE IS GREAT FAITH THAT SUDAN HAS POTENTIAL BECOME BREADBASKET AND PRIMARY MEAT PRODUCING AREA FOR ARAB WORLD. PEOPLE HERE BELIEVE SUDAN COULD PLAY SAME ROLE US WEST HAS PLAYED IN OUR OWN DEVELOPMENT. THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE JAROUDI QUITE SERIOUS IN DESCRIBING AMBITIOUS PLANS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY. IF AFESD/SUDAN AGRICULTURE PROJECT IS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A SCOPE THAT JAROUDI DESCRIBED IT WILL INDEED BY EXTREMELY SIGNIFICANT FOR EUROPEAN, AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD SUPPLY PATTERNS AND AS A LARGE PROJECT SIGNIFICANT IN ITS OWN RIGHT AS A MAJOR OPPORTUNITY FOR US FIRMS. STOLTZFUS

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